

With limited exceptions, noted below, fertilizer applied to turf in non-metropolitan counties must not contain more than three percent phosphorus by weight of granules, or a maximum of 0.3 pounds of phosphorus per 1,000 square feet of turf.

A non-metropolitan county or local unit of government may adopt the more strict standard by ordinance. If a county or local unit of government elects for the more strict standard, it must notify the commissioner of agriculture so that a list can be maintained.

Exceptions to the general rule apply when a laboratory test indicates the need for phosphorus, for newly seeded or sodded turf, or when the turf fertilizer is applied on a golf course by a licensed, certified professional.

Even with the exceptions noted above, the phosphorus application must not exceed rates recommended by University of Minnesota that have been approved by the commissioner of agriculture.

Subd. 3. Consumer information. The commissioner of agriculture, in consultation with various interested groups, must produce consumer information materials suitable for posting at retail points of sale for turf fertilizers containing phosphorus.

Subd. 4. Research evaluation, report. The commissioner and other interested persons must determine the need for additional research on the effects of phosphorus fertilization on urban turf.

Subd. 5. Enforcement. Local units of government, or the commissioner of agriculture, must enforce the provisions. A violation is a petty misdemeanor.

5 **Fertilizer application to an impervious surface; prohibition.** A fertilizer containing phosphorus that is spread or spilled on an impervious surface must be immediately cleaned up and properly cared for.

6 **Effective date.** Section 4 is effective January 1, 2004.